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Date February 6, 2004

To Group Art Unit: 3677

Of U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

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From Jason C. Beckstead

Subject Information Disclosure Statement

Our Ref A8617 Your Ref USSN 10/656,160

Pages 4  
(including cover sheet)

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In re application of Docket No: A8617  
Henry Jay GROEN, et al.  
Appn. No.: 10/656,160 Group Art Unit: 3677  
Confirmation No.: 1359 Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Filed: September 8, 2003  
For: GRAVITY-OPERATED SEPARABLE LINK

Paper Entitled: Information Disclosure Statement  
Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) 2 pages  
1 page

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## PATENT APPLICATION

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: A8617

Henry Jay GROEN, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/656,160

Group Art Unit: 3677

Confirmation No.: 1359

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: September 8, 2003

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
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Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not

**PATENT APPLICATION****INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/656,160

waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason C. Beckstead  
Registration No. 48,232

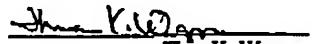
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<p>Substitute for Form 1449 A &amp; B/PTO</p> <p><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b></p> <p>(use as many sheets as necessary)</p>				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	A8617
				Application Number	10/656,160
				Confirmation Number	1359
				Filing Date	September 08, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Henry Jay GROEN
				Art Unit	3677
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US 5,913,670	A	06-22-1999	Anderson et al.
		US 5,461,821	A	10-31-1995	Carter, Jr.
		US 2,768,468	A	10-30-1956	Kibler et al.
		US 3,488,877	A	01-13-1970	Carabasse
		US 3,541,720	A	11-24-1970	Buffet
		US 3,648,398	A	03-14-1972	Newell
		US 3,925,921	A	12-16-1975	Tucker et al.
		US 4,696,121	A	09-29-1987	Hernden
		US 4,858,369	A	08-22-1989	Collins
		US 5,076,006	A	12-31-1991	Kahng
		US 2,326,876	A	08-17-1943	Miller

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

## NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

**Examiner Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Considered** \_\_\_\_\_

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPPP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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